

February 14, 1995 LB 401

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, no, no, no.

SENATOR WITEK: There are no...

SENATOR WESELY: No.

SENATOR WITEK: ...future talk of only allowing accredited programs to receive block grant programs?

SENATOR WESELY: No. I'll tell you what, if you don't mind, can I tell you the reason why we were talking about the accreditation?

SENATOR WITEK: Um-huh.

SENATOR WESELY: The idea was that for parents out there, that were going around looking to find child care, we want to make sure that they would know that if they were licensed child care we'd know they meet the minimum standards, they'd know that much, that hopefully the children would be safe. But if they were looking for somebody that may have like a little extra there, you know, the more education part of it, maybe a little more than the normal, they'd be able to have this option to know that, oh, they've gotten some special accreditation above and beyond. It's just to help the parents in their selection process.

SENATOR WITEK: And we're also going to be spending approximately \$70,000 a year for staff in the Department of Education for early childhood education consultant and a full-time secretary. Would that be in administering this volunteer accreditation program?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I think it's actually 40,000.

SENATOR WITEK: So if we're doing...if it's just voluntary accreditation, what do we need to spend \$70,000 a year for staff people, if we're not going to make it a mandatory accreditation program,...

SENATOR WESELY: Actually it's...

SENATOR WITEK: ...if it's just something a little extra?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, it's not 70,000 a year, it's 40,000 and